

Frequently Asked Questions - Tennessee Education Standards Review

In collaboration with the Tennessee State Board of Education, Gov. Haslam has announced the Tennessee Education Standards Review as part of the state's effort to continue its historic progress in K-12 academic achievement.

What is the Tennessee Education Standards Review?

The review is an opportunity for all Tennesseans to participate in the state's effort to improve outcomes for students by providing feedback on the state's academic standards in the subjects of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Why is the state conducting this type of review now?

In Tennessee, academic standards are typically reviewed every six years. The state's standards in ELA and math were adopted in 2010 by the Tennessee State Board of Education and have been implemented in Tennessee school districts since that time. Recently, there has been considerable discussion taking place in Tennessee and throughout the country relative to ELA and math standards and the review provides an opportunity for all stakeholders – teachers, higher education representatives, parents, grandparents, students, business leaders, community members and others – to provide input and improve upon the standards based upon our collective experiences over the past four years.

How will Tennesseans participate in the review?

Tennesseans can participate in the review online at www.tn.gov through a customized tool that will allow individuals to provide feedback on specific standards. Participants will be able to make comments on likes and dislikes of particular standards and offer recommendations for revisions, additions or deletions.

How will the information be collected?

The State Board of Education has enlisted the services of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works with 16 member states, including Tennessee, to improve public education at every level. SREB will collect the online public feedback and provide the information to the State Board of Education.

Will Tennessee educators be involved in the process?

Yes. Tennessee educators will be thoroughly involved in the standards review from the beginning and will be instrumental in any future action on the standards by the State Board of Education. Initially, Tennessee educators will be active participants in the review and encouraged to participate online through comments and recommendations. Then, after the online review is completed, Tennessee educators will comprise two standards review committees: one for ELA and one for math; and six advisory teams, three for ELA (grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12) and three for math (grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12), which will review all of the public feedback and make recommendations on the standards to the State Board of Education. These teams were chosen based on both geographic representation and demonstrated expertise in the grade and subject level for that content area. Altogether, every Tennessee educator will have an opportunity to participate in the process and more than 50 Tennessee educators will serve as part of the ELA and math review committees and advisory teams. SREB will help facilitate the work of the committees and teams.

What is the review timeline?

The online review tool will be available in the coming weeks and open for multiple months to allow ample time for all interested Tennesseans to participate. Once the online feedback process is completed in the spring of 2015, SREB will collect the information and provide it to the standards review committees and advisory teams, which will review,

study and analyze the feedback and standards over the summer and fall of 2015 and provide recommendations to the State Board of Education.

What is the goal of the review?

Despite the recent debate on academic standards, all Tennesseans can agree on the importance of high standards for our state. The ultimate goal of the review is to ensure Tennessee has the best possible standards as we continue to push ahead on the historic progress we have made in academic achievement. The review will accomplish the objective of increasing awareness of the state's current standards while also gathering valuable feedback from all interested Tennesseans as part of the state's normal standards review process and commitment toward continuous improvement.